Claims 1-4 have been amended, claim 5 has been canceled, and new claims 6-17 have been added. The amended claims and new claims are supported by the embodiments described on page 11 and Fig. 2 regarding ticket 200, the embodiments described on pages 12-15 and Fig. 3 regarding ticket printing and transmission of data to a central authority, including a ticket type, and the embodiments described on pages 15-17 and Fig. 4 regarding ticket validation and transmission of data, including ticket type, to components in gaming machine 102.

Responding to the Information Disclosure Statement portion of the Office Action, the applicants thank the Examiner for considering the Information Disclosure Statement.

Responding to the objections to claim 1, claim 1 has been amended to avoid the language objected to by the Examiner.

Responding to the rejection of claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, claim 2 has been amended to overcome the rejection, and claim 5 has been cancelled.

The rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Burns et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,048,269, "Burns"), is respectfully traversed. Amended claim 1 is limited to:

(A)   a gaming machine comprising:

(1)   a display arranged to display a credit amount;

(2)   a medium generator arranged to generate a medium comprising a machine-readable validation code and a non-machine readable credit amount;

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(3)   a reader unit arranged to read the validation code from the medium; and

(4)   a network interface;

(B)   a network; and

(C)   a central authority arranged to store the validation code and a credit amount received from the network in response to generating the medium, arranged to validate the validation code and arranged to transmit the stored credit amount through the network to the interface in response to validation of the validation code, the credit amount being displayed on the display.

Burns fails to teach this novel combination. Burns generates a bar code representing the monetary value of the value of the credit stored in the particular slot machine 200 on the cash out slips 220, along with a randomly generated number in order to permit the CPU 100 to verify the validity and unique identification of the cash out slip 220 at a later time (Col. 6, lines 21-29). Upon insertion of the cash out slip 220 into the bar code reader 206, the bar code reader 206 transmits a signal to the CPU 100 corresponding to the bar code, and the PCU 100 compares the bar code 222 on the particular cash out ticket with those stored in its memory which contains the value of the cash out slip, the unique identification, and its status (Col. 6, lines 30-36).

In contrast to the Burns teaching, claim 1 is limited to a medium generator arranged to generate a medium comprising a machine-readable validation code and a non-machine readable credit amount. This feature offers advantages over the Burns

teaching. For example, by using the claimed feature, a player has no chance to alter the credit amount represented by the bar code, because the credit amount is not represented by the bar code.

Burns also does not teach transmitting the stored credit amount through the network to the interface in response to validation of the validation code as claimed. Burns relies on the ticket amount already sent by the gaming machine from the ticket, an amount that may have been altered by the player. Claim 1 is limited to features that offer advantages over Burns, and which deserve patent protection. For all the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is allowable over Burns.

Claims 2-3 are dependent on amended claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Regarding claim 4, the Examiner states that in the Abstract, Burns discloses a signal to the bar code printer to print the cash out slip. The undersigned has been unable to find any such disclosure in the Abstract, or anywhere else in Burns. The few instances in which the word signal is used appear to have nothing to do with a cash out signal. The undersigned has been unable to find any reference to a cash out signal in Burns. As a result, claim 4 is allowable.

New claims 6 and 7 also refer to a cash out signal and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 4.

New claim 8 depends on claim 1 and is allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

New claim 9 is limited to storing a medium type and transmitting the medium type to the interface in response to validation of the validation code. The undersigned has
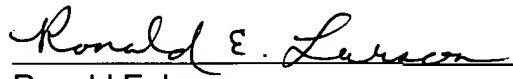
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been unable to find any teaching or suggestion of this novel feature. As a result, claim 9 is allowable.

New claims 10-17 are analogous to claims in the group 1-4 and 6-9. Claims 10-17 are allowable for the same reasons as claims 1-4 and 6-9.

For all the foregoing reasons, each of claims 1-4 and 6-17 defines patentable subject matter, and early allowance is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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1.   (Amended) A gaming system comprising:

[(A)   an indicia bearing paper medium having a machine readable validation code;]

[(B)] (A)   a gaming machine comprising:

(1)   a display [for displaying] arranged to display a credit amount;

(2)   [a game controller for controlling game operation] a medium generator arranged to generate a medium comprising a machine-readable validation code and a non-machine readable credit amount;

[(3)   a reception area for receiving said medium via manual presentation of said medium at said reception area by a game player; and]

[(4)] (3)   a reader unit for reading [said validation code from said medium] the validation code from the medium; and

[(5)] (4)   a network interface [comprising a microprocessor and a memory, said memory storing a preloaded validation number];

(B)   a network; and

(C)   a central authority arranged to store the validation code and a credit amount received from the network in response to generating the medium, arranged to validate the validation code and arranged to transmit the stored credit amount through the network to the interface in response to validation of the validation code, the credit amount being displayed on the display. [;]

[(D) a network connected between said network interface and said central authority; and

wherein said microprocessor communicates said validation code to said central authority, and said microprocessor receives a favorable validation response from said central authority; and

wherein a said credit amount is displayed onto said display in response to receipt by said microprocessor of a said favorable validation response.]

2. (Amended) [The] A gaming [machine of] system according to claim 1 wherein [said game] the gaming machine [is] comprises a slot machine.

3. (Amended) A gaming system according to claim 1 wherein [said gaming machine includes] the medium comprises a ticket and wherein the medium generator comprises a ticket printer.

4. (Amended) A gaming system according to claim 1 wherein [said] the gaming machine generates a cashout signal in response to manual activation.